

CDXC newsletter

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CDXC 1988
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Editor: G3XTT

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR The last two months have been one of the most exciting periods for DXers that I can remember. Although the 4W DXpedition never came off, there has been more than enough other excitement to compensate. Vietnam appeared as promised, contrary to all expectations. Rotuma appeared, and the odds are that the ARRL will have to count it as a new one. KH6, KL7 and a host of Pacific DX has been workable daily on ten. And so it goes on. The HF Convention proved to be a roaring success once again, though I shall never feel the same about my contesting efforts having now seen W0AIIH's slides!

At the time of writing Ian, G4LJF, is very active indeed from Antigua, signing G4LJF/V2A, and has been worked in the UK on 80-10, making a special point of looking out for CDXC members. Ian will be writing up his trip for the next newsletter.

As a result of CDXC's efforts at the HF Convention, and particularly thanks to Roger, G3LQP, we are pleased to welcome several new members to our ranks. These are Dave Guy, G0ANP, Barry Crook, G4AZN, Bob Hearn, G0BTY, Frank Parkhurst, BRS10663, Terry Russell, G3JFH, Nick Waite, G3KOX, Barry Whitley, GW4RHW, Fred Laun, K3ZO, Barry Setter, G4YAO, John Greenwell, G3AEZ, Ian Brown, G4YSN, John Pemberton, G4WXO, Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, John Bazley, G3HCT, Laurie Margolis, G3UML, Ghis Penny, ON5NT, Paul Grainger, F6EXV, and Steve Ayling, G4ASL. A very warm welcome to all of you.

Finally, don't forget the Christmas social at Thames Ditton on 3rd December. Tickets are £9-45 per head, kick off at 7.30pm. I look forward to seeing you there. If not, a Happy Christmas and a DX-filled 1989 to you all.

73 de Don, G3XTT

CQWW: Five CDXC members took part in the CQWW SSB Contest at the end of October as a Team entry. This relatively new category requires 5 team members to operate from at least two continents in the single-operator category. The scores are then totalled together to produce the team score. The CDXC team consisted of G3OZF, G3XTT, GW4BLE, G4OBB

and VK9YG(G4JVG). While we won't beat the OH2BH brigade, our scores should help to keep CDXC's name in the lights. Claimed scores were:

Callsign	Score	QSOs	Zones	Countries
G3OZF	1,636,728	1,755	100	276
G3XTT	1,773,708	1,663	114	360
G4OBK	2,400,000(est)	2,616	111	310
GW4BLE	5,241,236	3,936	127	357
VK9YG	3,671,258	2,999	128	303

A detailed breakdown for OBK, BLE and VK9YG appears elsewhere. Don, G3OZF's score broke down as follows:

Band	QSOs	Pts	Zones	Countries
80	110	227	6	26
40	90	193	10	31
20	317	727	21	61
15	418	966	28	69
10	820	2240	35	89
TOTAL	1755	4353	100	276

The G3XTT breakdown was:

160	38	43	5	28
80	241	408	11	50
40	82	125	14	44
20	320	697	23	71
15	388	879	30	79
10	594	1590	31	88
TOTAL	1663	3742	114	360

One of the nice things about operating these contests is running across people you know. Ed, W4MGN, who I worked on ten, sent his regards to CDXC members he has met on previous visits to the UK. Fred, K3ZO, operating HS0A, also worked on ten, commented on how much he had enjoyed his visit to the HF Convention. Peter, ZL3GQ, another visitor to this year's Convention, also found his way into my ten metre log. Jan, DJ8NK, worked on twenty, sends along his regards. All in all, quite a gathering of the clans!

Finally, while on the subject of contests, CDXC members have been putting in some excellent performances recently in the various major international events. Steve, GW4BLE, came third in EU in last year's CQWW SSB and European winner in the ARRL SSB event. John, G3HCT, was 4th in Europe on 21MHz in the 1987 CQWW CW, while G4OBK achieved a high placing on 3.5MHz in the same event. GW4BKG had an excellent 7MHz score in the CQWW SSB. Some of our overseas members have also made their mark in various of these events.

No doubt there will be a number of opportunities next year for CDXC to make its mark major contests, by way of Club, Team or Multi-Op entries. Perhaps we need a contest co-ordinator? Maybe I'm barking up the wrong tree - I fully realise that DXing and Contesting don't necessarily go hand-in-hand, but I would have thought there were enough serious testers in our ranks to give it a go? Do let me have your feedback, for the newsletter or to pass to the Committee.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR DXERS

Just a few days after the contest I got my hands on a copy of the K1EA Contest Log Program. I can only say I wish I had had it to use during the contest itself. This remarkable piece of software can handle the CQWW, CQWPX, WAE and ARRL contests. It is intended for real-time use during the contest. All you do is enter the callsign and the program does the rest (assuming the report is 59 or 599), entering time and zone, telling you instantly if it is a country or zone multiplier or a dupe. What I find particularly fascinating is that the program continuously displays various information in windows on the screen including a full display of zones worked per band, your QSO rate for last 10 QSOs, last 100 QSOs, and contest so far, a running summary of total QSOs, countries, zones and dupes per band, a running calculation of your total score, and a calculation of the relative benefit of chasing QSOs or new multipliers so you can make a continual assessment of which option to follow.

The program has a built-in CW keyer facility so, if you want, it will handle much of the QSO for you once you have entered the call! It can also interface directly to the TS940 (and will, in future versions, work to other radios) for frequency input and output. Finally, it will interwork with the AK1A packet spotting software. What this means is that you can put out a "spot" to other AK1A users in the area (much as we would put out a DX "spot" on 144.525) just by hitting a function key. It will ask you to enter the frequency or, if you are using a TS940 with interface, will take it directly from the radio! Similarly it will work the other way round. An incoming "spot" can be displayed in a window on the screen. You can then choose to call that station for a multiplier, in which case the frequency can be forwarded to your radio automatically! I happen to believe the use of incoming "spots" for single-operator contest stations is against the rules and spirit of the contest, but it would appear to be perfectly acceptable in a mutli-op situation.

All this may be horrifying, but many US operators are already using the software. In fact, looking at K1EA's example log which comes on the disc, and which is his own log from last year's CQWW CW contest, I found my own callsign there for our topband QSO! The K1EA program has its limitations. It thought CR3MI and CT9MZ were both in Portugal (whereas they are in CT3) and S01A fooled it completely, but it had no trouble at all with K4YT/41 (DU, zone 27).

As for the AK1A software itself, which I mentioned above and have talked about before in this newsletter, this is now being used very heavily indeed in the USA. In a write-up in the latest W6GO/K6HHD QSL Manager list it is reported that in a 3-month period in Northern California the system was used to report 3049 different DX stations in 245 DXCC countries. There were 157 stations who input information to the network during this time, K6PBT on no less than 476 occasions! The most-reported DX station was T31JS with 85 announcements, followed by CY9DXX with 55 and T5GG with 42. Whether this is what DXing should be about is an open question, but I suspect aids such as the two I have just described are here to stay. We hope to demonstrate some of this

software at next year's HF Convention, which will give you an opportunity to make your own judgement.

AWARDS By now the RSGB's new awards book should be hitting the streets, and not a moment too soon. Cris, G4FAM, put a lot of effort into this, but the RSGB has been rather slow at getting it printed. K1BV also publishes an awards directory (updated annually) which is available from him for \$13.75 surface mail or \$18 air mail. Steve, G4JVG, also tells me that YBOWR is about to publish a lavishly illustrated awards directory which will be available for \$40. More details from Steve. Finally, next year is the ARRL's 75th anniversary and they are producing a series of "Diamond" awards. Work 75 novices, 75 of the 76 ARRL sections, or 75 countries on the 18 and/or 24MHz bands. Application forms are available from ARRL HQ.

THE BANDS I have already commented on how the bands have been buzzing recently. For my own part, I worked the two final zones I needed for 5WAZ (zones 1 and 19 on ten) not once, but several times each during October, plus contacts with the 3W on 5 bands. To hear their S9 signal on 80 was something of a revelation! It's difficult to believe that just a few weeks ago Vietnam was close to the top of the wanted lists. This was a new one for many of our members, including some like Henry, G3GIQ, who have been licensed for a year or three. Some UK amateurs have already made it on topband as well.

Bal, DJ6SI, put in one of his best efforts yet as 5UV386 (yes, I have a photocopy of the licence, and it really does give this callsign specifically for operation on the amateur bands). I and many others managed to work him on five bands and Dave, G3YMC, even had QSOs on 18 and 24MHz.

Of course, we had the Rotuma expedition during October to add to the excitement. They were worked in the UK on 40 through 10 metres, although seemed to be less in evidence than OH1RY and OH2BAZ who were active from mainland Fiji at the same time. Under the revised wording of the DXCC rules Rotuma would have to count as a new one, and of course the new wording potentially opens the door for up to about a dozen new ones (no one seems to be quite sure whether the ARRL realised this at the time - they claim that they were trying to clarify the existing interpretation of the rules, not to open the door to a new interpretation). Anyway, we can look forward (if that's the right phrase!) to a number of new ones, mainly in the Pacific area (ZK1, T32, FO, etc, where individual groups of outlying islands are often more than the stipulated 225 miles away from the main group), plus, right on our own doorstep, Rockall. Any takers for a DXpedition to one of the most inaccessible lumps of rock in the world, before Martti Laine or others of similar disposition beat us to it?

Just in case you are still confused as to what has happened to the DXCC rules to bring about the change, let me try to clarify the situation. Rule 2a now states that an island or group of islands will count separately if separated by at least 225 miles of open water from "a continent, another island or group of islands that make up any part of the parent DXCC country". Rule 2b then invokes a 500 mile rule for a second or subsequent island or group of islands. It is the change in

Rule 2a that is significant, because the 225 mile rule used only to apply where the parent country was a "mainland", not itself an island or group of islands.

DXCC NEWS. The big news is that 4J1 will count! This came as something of a surprise, because the DXAC never got chance to consider the application. It can only be assumed that the ARRL decided to honour the old letter which promised that this one would count as and when it was activated. Rotuma will be considered shortly by the DXCC powers that be. If it counts, then so should the Marquesas Islands, which are due to be activated shortly.

From Dave, G4GED: I'd like to take this opportunity to make some open comments on the Wants List if you don't mind Don... any response welcome in the newsletter.

I notice in the latest list that some DXers with fairly youthful call signs have ET ticked off. As there hasn't been any legal operation from there for some years, I wonder if they have checked their contact with ARRL yet? Also, I wonder if there's much point in having "incomplete", "none required" or "no info at present" entries? In the first case this could mean the member missing a much needed new one, cos everyone thinks he already has it. In the second case, I've always believed the intention behind the Wants List is to help members alert their friends when there is a new one on, and not meant as a scoreboard for those who need an ego trip, that's well catered for in other DX publications. Finally, with the membership growing fairly rapidly now, I see the list mushrooming into confusion if it includes non/incomplete entries and would like to suggest entries be deleted when there are none or if not kept complete and regularly up-dated? That's my piece!!

Recently working C9MKT brought my DXCC score up to country No. 300, a milestone for me and something that I never dreamt possible when I first seriously got stuck into this game just a few years ago! I guess the long hard slog to Honour Roll really begins from here?!

This coming LF season I'll again be earnestly hunting for Zone 31 on 80m (If any member comes across one, I'd very much appreciate two bells!). Only three more are now needed for 5BWAZ, the other two just being Z.1 and Z.40 on 10m, so not too worried about finding those soon.

73 de Dave

(Well Dave, I've taken the attitude that the wants list has also served as an up-to-date membership list, including name and phone number, at a time when membership has been growing by the month. Hence the reason for trying to include everybody, even those with no "wants" or an incomplete list. Now that membership has shot up yet again I will have to review this policy just because there won't be the space, so I suspect we will end up with exactly what you are asking for! I will probably only include it every other issue as well, just because of the logistics of keeping it up-to-date. Have not

included it this time because, with so much on the bands recently, it is likely to be very inaccurate right now. Don, G3XTT)

From Steve, GW4BLE: I thought that you would like to hear of my results following the effort in the CQWW Phone. Things did not exactly get off to very good start (to say the least!) with the main encoder on the TS930S packing in just 48 hours before the contest. Fortunately I was able to get a replacement rig (TS440S and TL922A) from Ian, G3WVG, although this meant a 300 mile five-hour round trip to London on the Friday morning. There then followed the usual lack of familiarisation with a change of equipment and to say I started the contest in the wrong frame of mind would be rather an understatement! Friday had been planned as a relaxing day before the contest, with only some final adjustments on one of the 40 metre antennas planned. This just didn't happen, of course, and many "easy" multipliers on the band were missed. It was not until some time on the Saturday afternoon that the VOX settings on the 440 were mastered. Until that time the send/receive button on the actual rig was used as the press-to-talk. Not very conducive to a high scoring rate, hi!

On to things a little more positive..... the total number of QSOs was a "best-yet" with over 4000 contacts, 4084 to be exact. The multiplier total to date (not yet finished checking) gives 129 zones and 355 countries, that is a total of 484. With an estimated points per QSO average of 2.4 this equates to a claimed score of around 4.5 million (with an expected 4% dupe rate). Not too bad I suppose, but "what if....." etc... etc...

The breakdown was as follows:

	QSOs	Points	Zones	Countries
160	40	50	5	33
80	331	783	14	54
40	308	836	18	52
20	529	1506	25	62
15	686	1852	30	77
10	2042	5802	35	79
TOTAL	3936	10829	127	357

At the end of the month Ian Pritchard G(W)3WVG will be operating my station as single-op all bands in the CQWW CW. He will use my call or possibly that of the Three "As" contest group (GW0AAA), so don't be surprised if you hear GW4BLE rattling off at 30wpm; it won't be me operating!

With the welcome increase in usage of 144.525 by DXers in other groups, not necessarily members of CDXC, I think that we should be setting an example by keeping remarks of a non DX-related nature to a minimum (if at all?). I have been as "guilty" as others, if not more so, at times of digressing into ragchew mode, but I think we should all attempt to set an example, especially as we almost have some sort of official recognition (see Angus McKenzie's FM channel information in November RadComm).

Regards to all. Steve, GW4BLE.

From Tony, G4ZYQ: As a new member of of CDXC, whose full title I hope will be retained, I would like to apprise you of my countries wanted list. At present it is still quite a long list but I am determined to make it shorter! I understand the problems, but if the "wanted" page in the newsletter were printed with the countries down the left-hand side it would be easier to read "at a glance" and consequently be more used. Here in the North-West as you probably know there is a strong informal group of keen DXers and a fairly efficient "buddy" system in force. There is good 2m FM activity and some enthusiastic newcomers knocking up some good scores. Phil, G4OBK, and Ian, G4YSN, are the leading locals and do a lot to encourage us less equipped stations.

73 de Tony, G4ZYQ.

From Steve, G4JVG: The idea of a DXpedition to Cocos Keeling first came to me in 1985, when I met Cress, VK9YC, at the N.E.C. in Birmingham, having spoken to him several times when he used to live on the islands. I suggested to him that he was in an almost unique position to offer potential DXpeditioners the possibility of operating from his station there, since the towers and antennas were already in situ. He was already thinking along the same lines and, less than a year later, an "advert" appeared in DX News Sheet offering radio amateurs the chance to stay on Cocos Keeling. The first amateurs to do so were Jim Smith and Bob Winn, W5KNE, in 1987.

There are only two ways to get to Cocos Keeling from Europe. The cheapest way would be to take a cheap "bucket shop" flight to Singapore, fly to Christmas Island (VK9X), spend a few days there, fly on to Cocos and then return the same way. But because there is only one flight a week from Singapore to Christmas and vice versa and only one flight every other week from Christmas to Cocos, it would have meant spending either one or three weeks on VK9Y - two was impossible. It would also have meant having to spend several days both ways on Christmas - fine for a DXer, but not very pleasant for my wife, Eva, for whom this was meant to be a holiday-of-a-lifetime (there is nothing on Christmas except for guano and there are great difficulties in finding accommodation unless you "know" somebody, which we did not.) So, it was decided to go the other way; fly to Perth in Western Australia and take the weekly Australian government charter from Perth to Cocos Keeling. This had the added advantages of permitting a 2-week stay on Cocos and seeing part of VK in bi-centennial year.

After phoning several bucket shops in London we eventually got a very good low-price return ticket to Perth, which turned out to be with Garuda, the Indonesian national airline. It permitted stop-overs at no extra expense in Jakarta and Bali, which we obviously took advantage of. In Jakarta we met YBOWR, Lumban Gaol, who was extremely generous and took around Jakarta sight-seeing in his chauffeur-driven air-conditioned brand-new BMW. His station is somewhat impressive - it sports the largest antenna system in Asia, consisting of a 4 element yagi for 80 metres, a 3 element full-size yagi for 40 metres, a 6 element on 20m and (his smallest antenna) a KLM KT-34XA 6 element tribander. The 80 metre beam has to be seen to be believed!

Bali is a beautiful green island, sunny and warm, with a lot of interesting sight-seeing. They have a thriving tourist industry and so there was a lot of encouragement to buy souvenirs, wood carvings, batik and so on. From Bali we flew to Perth, where we were met by Cress (now VK6YX) and his wife, Lissa. In the eight days that we spent in Perth, they became really good friends, taking us on sight-seeing trips and generally making us feel very welcome. Perth, along with Stockholm, must be one of the most beautiful cities of around one million people in the world.

Eventually the day came when we were at Perth airport again for the flight to Cocos. We arrived, as requested, 1hr 30 mins before departure time to find the airport deserted. I have never seen an international airport with so few people. We thought the place must have been evacuated. It turned out that the flight to Cocos was the only one in or out that morning, and there were only a handful of passengers. Passengers were out-numbered by airline staff, security guards and duty-free shop staff by a factor of about 10:1. We were checked-in in minutes and spend 90 minutes browsing through the duty-frees. Cocos is 3000km north-west of Perth and the flight took about four hours. Although there were not many passengers, most of the seats in the Australian airlines DC-10 were occupied by cargo, mailsacks, etc.

At Cocos we were met by Peter, Maxine and Catherine, three of John and Vicki Clunies-Ross' staff who again made us extremely welcome and brought us several cold beers (or "tinnies" - I never once heard them called "tubes") at the Cocos Club while we waited for the ferry that would take us from West Island, where the airport and Australian administration are, to Home Island, on which Oceania House, the Clunies-Ross' 19th century mansion, is located. The house is quite beautiful, all wooden panelling inside and situated in some ten acres of tropical walled garden, complete with dovecote and a flood-lit pergola, where most of the meals were taken. For the radio amateur, the shack is located in a separate building, a disused school block within the grounds. A new Kenwood TS-440S was provided, along with an old Yaesu FL-2100B linear. When we arrived, there were only two antennas in working order - an 8-element log periodic yagi for 10-15-20m (rotatable) on a 70 foot tower and, about 140 feet away, another 6 element log periodic yagi, for 10 and 15 metres only, on a 60 foot tower. The latter beam was not rotatable, but was fixed on north (from where virtually all signals come). The other antennas were in quite a sorry state, though this is no criticism of Cress or the Clunies-Ross. The station had not been used for over six months and in the tropical conditions with heavy winds and terrible corrosion problems antennas very quickly deteriorate. Another of John's staff, Chris, and I spent the next one and a half days hacking through the undergrowth with machetes and re-building the bits of wire that were hanging from the towers. Some were apparently in reasonable shape, but just did not work: we discovered at least one length of co-ax feeder had a join in the middle (buried under tropical growth) which had at some time let water in. Eventually a two-element delta loop for forty metres, with the apex at 70 feet, was working after a fashion, along with a half-wave dipole for 80 metres strung between the two towers. I made a quarter-wave inverted-L for 160 metres out of bits of wire that were left blowing from the two towers - at one time it had been a twice-

size G5RV, apparently. John climbed the 70 foot tower and eventually we were in business on all bands.

I had intended to be very active on the low-frequency bands at around sunrise (2300 GMT) and sunset (1130 GMT) most days, but after the first few days gave it up as a bad job. I was never convinced that the 40 or 160 metre antennas were working as well as they should have done. It proved very difficult to make DX QSOs on 40m, even though I was hearing signals quite well, they could not hear me. It proved next to impossible to get a pile-up going on this band - even working the JA's I would lose the frequency after a short run. 160 metres was even worse: after skeds with VK6HD and VS6DO failed, I gave up. On 80 metres; I think the dipole was working as well as you would expect a dipole at 60 feet to work, but Cocos Keeling is so far from anywhere apart from Indonesia that QSOs were few and far between. Being only 12 degrees south of the equator, the grey-line sunrise and sunset times are over in a flash. One morning, I spent the whole of my sunrise period trying to break into a QSO with an EI and a GI station on 3797. They were nattering away and not listening for DX. The EI peaked to about 58 - he obviously had an impressive antenna set-up as he was testing the front-to-back, which was about three S-points on Cocos! Unfortunately, the VK phone band is only 3795-3800, so it was impossible to get any QSOs that morning. One evening, I did work several W5, 6 and 7's and VE7, so this made up somewhat for the disappointment of hearing DX on the low bands and not being able to attract attention. In retrospect, probably a Butternut vertical would have been better for the low bands, as well as more power.

Unfortunately the FL-2100B linear had a input matching problem, presenting a high SWR to the TS440S, which cut back on its output power. The problem was at its most severe on 20m, when it was difficult to get more power out of the linear than when using the 440 barefoot. Even the built-in ATU of the 440 could not match the rig to the linear. Nevertheless, for general operating, this was no great problem, for even with only 100 watts the pile-ups on 10, 15 and 20 metres were gratifyingly large. On 40 and 80, I feel sure that with a TL-922 or something similar, I would have done infinitely better.

1988 being bi-centennial year in Australia meant that I could use the AX9 prefix, and so I used AX9YG between 18th October - 28th October. During this time I deliberately spent only an hour or two on the bands per day, and made about 2000 QSOs. Far more time was devoted to the pleasures of exploring Cocos Keeling. It is an almost impossibly beautiful place, completely unspoiled. There are 27 islands in two coral atolls. North Keeling is a single island, uninhabited, and 24km north of the remaining 26. (Possibly a separate IOTA counter?) Of the 26 islands around the horse-shoe shaped lagoon, only West Island and Home Island are inhabited. With a population of only around 600 it is very easy to take a dinghy to any of the uninhabited islands and have an island all to yourself. Our favourite spots were Prison Island, which you could walk around in five minutes, and Direction Island - considerably larger. A typical day started with an hour or two operation as AX9YG, followed by an outdoor breakfast and then John and one or two of the staff would take us out in the dinghy to Direction Island. The water is an incredible shade of turquoise and flying fish jump out of the lagoon just feet in front of the boat. We have packed an "Eskey" - another Australian word to add to my vocabulary - a giant

cold box brimming with ice cubes, a bottle of champagne each, several beers each, steaks, giant crayfish and salad. On Direction Island (or "D.I." to the locals) we spend an hour or two snorkling in the rip, where a gap in the reef produces a strong current from the ocean into the lagoon. An unforgettable experience. Meanwhile John has started a coconut barbie and the smell of berbecued crayfish and steaks wafts across to us. Time for lunch. We are joined by several "yachties", yachtsmen who are sailing around the world and spending some time on Cocos. One of them turns out to be Sam, an American amateur who last year operated as 3DX2DX/VK9 from Mellish Reef. His yacht, appropriately enough, is also called "DX". After a couple of hours lazing about, recovering from the effects of the lunch and the bottle of champagne, it is time to pile back into the dinghy to return to Home Island. As usual, the lagoon has become quite choppy during the afternoon and we return as wet as we would have been if we swam back. While we have been away, Maxine has been preparing dinner back at Oceania House - with more champagne. After dinner, AX9YG returns to the airwaves for another hour or so.

Most of our days were spent in similar fashion. My main intention amateur radio-wise was to participate seriously in the CQ World Wide contest on 29th-30th October, which is why I had been "rationing" out the QSOs before-hand. On the day before the contest I was checking out the performance of the 8 element beam on 20 metres, as I intended doing a single band entry, to try for the Oceania 14MHz record, which looked as if it could be beaten by a concerted effort. On a couple of occasions during the previous ten days I had noticed the signal strength of received signals drop away for a fraction of a second, or the SWR suddenly flick up to infinity on transmit, again just for a fraction of a second. However, it happened so infrequently I ignored the problem. On the Friday, though, a strong wind had been blowing all day and the antenna packed up altogether. It still worked on 10 and 15, so I think the feed to the rear-most element (which had been hanging at an angle to the other elements all the time) must have become disconnected. This disaster put paid to the idea of doing a 20 metre single band entry, and I had to spend the next six hours putting up a 20 metre dipole in the dark so as to be able to use the band at all. Why it took six hours is another story, but after several disasters I was again QRV on all bands. Since I could not do a single band entry on 20 metres, I decided to operate all bands.

During the contest I used the call VK9YG, so as to prevent time-wasters asking which country AX9 was. It quickly became obvious that 10 metres was in excellent shape. With just a dipole on 20 metres (and little more than 100 watts) I could not make much impression on that band. 15 metres was better, but whenever I went on 10 metres there was a huge pile-up and it was very easy to work 4 or 5 QSOs per minute for hour after hour. At times the band was open to JA, Europe, and the whole of the States simultaneously. Since I was doing a multi-band entry, though, I had to try to work as many multipliers as possible on the other bands and here I wasted a lot of time calling stations who could not hear me. Things got worse as I went to lower frequency bands and on 80 metres it was only possible to make 33 QSOs. It was good to work 3W8DX on all five bands with ease, and also - much more difficult on 80m - OH0MM. On 10 metres I made over 2000 QSOs (including dupes) with just over 1000 on the other bands put together. Because of the difficulties of making QSOs at all on 20, 40 and 80, I feel sure that

if I had operated 10 metres single band, I could have made well over 4000 QSOs, probably closer to 5000, which would probably have given me a good chance of a world single-band record. In the event, the final score looks as follows:

Band	QSOs	Points	Zones	Countries
160	1	0	1	1
80	33	68	12	21
40	117	328	20	36
20	215	606	27	53
15	679	1872	33	82
10	1954	5644	35	110
TOTAL	2999	8518	128	303

The single QSO on topband was with Sam on Direction Island, who was now using another of his calls, VP2VIN/VK9. Thanks to him, I was able to get the Cocos Keeling multiplier on all six bands.

Could I have done better? Undoubtedly. Better antennas on the low bands (and if the 8 ele had been working on 20m) and a reasonable amount of power would have helped a lot. After hours of intense concentration of working 200-250 QSOs per hour by the Sunday evening I was so tired I went to sleep at 1700, with the intention of getting up again for the final two hours of the contest, but of course I slept through the alarm and so missed the last seven hours of the contest.

Back in Perth I was entertained by George, VK6NKG (who had been on the previous expedition to Cocos Keeling) and Nick, VK6PAT. Both have novice licences at present but are extremely keen DXers on 10 and 15 metres, and they intend getting full call signs soon, after which they promise some very big signals from VK on the low frequency bands. Meanwhile they are planning a DXpedition next year to Willis Island and Mellish Reef.

The 37 hour flight with Garuda from Perth to London, via Bali, Jakarta, Singapore, Bangkok, Abu Dhabi, Rome and Amsterdam was uneventful and we returned to find a post containing over 100 direct QSLs, with an average of 15 arriving every day since. I hope to get some nice colour photo QSLs printed, though this will take some time.

From Phil, G4OBK: What a contest! It was nice to pick off 4 new ones on 10 metres - I didn't expect conditions so good that I was easily able to work YJORY on Saturday and tune across him at the same signal strength on Sunday morning.

I wouldn't have bothered with the contest if Steve, G4JVG, hadn't rung up two days before leaving for Cocos with the suggestion that CDXC members in two continents could enter as a team. It seemed a different slant on the straightforward contest format as single-op so I agreed there and then to take part!

Everything went OK considering. I managed to operate for 32 hours out of the 48 and run some big USA pile-ups in the process on 10, 15 and 20m. The practice working USA stations split-frequency on 40 and 80m was great and should stand me in good stead for next year's Bermuda

Contest! Here is the breakdown so far (10m yet to be checked and scored):

Band	QSOs	Pts	Zones	Countries
160	80	91	7	35
80	306	538	12	45
40	217	503	15	40
20	483	1102	24	57
15	443	1173	22	54
10	1087		31	79

Estimated score is 2,400,000. For the CQWW CW Contest I've decided to go in for 10 metres single-band - I'll get more sleep that way!

73 de Phil, G4OBK

JACK KORNDORFFER, AFC, MA

Jack Korndorffer, the CDXC Club Treasurer passed away after a short illness on 17th September 1988. His death is a great loss to his family, to the Club, and to amateur radio in general. I first met Jack ten years ago when I moved to Sutton and joined Sutton and Cheam Radio Club and, being the only two persons interested in DXing in the Club, we clicked immediately and our friendship grew stronger over the years. Jack served CDXC well, both as secretary and treasurer, as he did with everything he was involved in. He had a distinguished career which resulted in an MA (Honours) degree and the AFC was awarded during his war service as a fighter pilot with the RAF. DXing gave him, like all of us, great pleasure and he was delighted when he achieved Honor Roll. CDXC was represented at his funeral by myself, Roger, G3KMA, and Roger's xyl Jill. It was the most dignified funeral service I have ever been to. He may be QRT, but G2DMR will be greatly missed and cherished by all DXers.

A donation was sent by CDXC to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Roger, G3LQP

FINALE If you don't think much of the content of the newsletter this time (or any other time) the answer is in your own hands! I can only print what I receive, otherwise you will be presented with my ramblings. Deadlines for the next few issues, all being well, will be as follows:

Jan 21st, March 18th, May 20th, July 15th

Material can be sent to me via post or packet radio at GB7WOK.

17 Elmhow Grove,
Hawkey Hall,
WIGAN,
Lancashire,
WN3 5RQ.

November 16th 1988.

Dear All,

It seems a long time ago now since the H.F. Convention at Oxford but let me just say what an enjoyable week-end I had at the Belfry and how nice it was to meet so many DXers, some of whom I had not met before. I always think that one of the strange things about our hobby is that one makes friends with so many people around the world and does not have a clue about what they look like. All YL's should have their photographs on their QSL cards. Sorry Hazel!

Well on the DX lane of the M6 since my last input into the Newsletter in July, I have added 3B9 T3Ø FR/J TN J6 (Tnx Laurie but where's the card Hi!) T5 VK9N VKØM 3D2 and KHØ to my list of all-time countries /M making 238 with 25 new ones for 1988 alone, must be something to do with sun-spots I guess!

Recently I worked the 1Z, pity it does not count for DXCC. So far both VP8BRR and VP8BRT have been missed. Thanks for the try Hazel but I could not hear Tony, which creates a slight problem of course.

QSL cards have been received from FT5Z SØ BV EP T3Ø TY TN 3D2 HL (at last) VK9N VKØM 3B9 and FR/J bringing my confirmed total to 227 (stand by Newington), the EP is a little bit suspect though. Awards recently obtained are WAE-1 and WAZ.

Ten metres has of course been excellent lately with 151 countries worked for the year with some all-time new countries and some new ones for the band. All but zones 1, 19, 23, 30, and 32 have been worked on ten metres operating mobile although all have been heard. How do you mount a beam on a car?? I hope by the way that Mike G4IUF found Zone 2. I worked VE2XY in the CQWW on 28286 at 1815 on the Saturday for Zone 2.

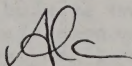
It is good to see other Northern DXers joining CDXC. I am in regular contact with G4ZYQ G4ØBK and G4YSN on the land line due to a lack of 2m FM gear at home or in the car. Did receive a card from an OK3 recently so I do some VHF SSB occasionally Hi! Still it was a very good lift; it would have to be with only ten watts and a 9-el tonna at ten feet!! I digress.

I agree with Phil G4ØBK that the Northern lads should meet every month or so to discuss views and compare notes. Many thanks to John Allaway for the photograph in this month's RadCom of the gang. I was not in the picture as I must have been at the bar buying the next round. Could we call ourselves the Northern CDXC (NCDXC) or would that be confused with the Northern California DX Foundation. Only joking!

Well that's about it for now. I hope to see some of you at the R.S.G.B. A.G.M. in Manchester next month but it does clash with the A.R.R.L. 10 meter Contest I know.

So I better get back to chasing the 3W, it's alright for you guys with Quads and 400w!

73 and good DXing,



Alan G4NXG/M

p.s. Don, please remove VKØM from my wanted list.

(SIDE PRESS: Alan worked 3W8DX on 20m SSB on 25TH Nov.).

G3XII - A POTTED HISTORY

As I am always encouraging members, both old and new, to tell us something of their history in amateur radio, I thought it was probably time I told the G3XTT story.

My interest in radio began in the mid-60s in the days of the pirate radio stations. Some of these also had short wave transmissions, which I was able to monitor once I inherited an old multi-band broadcast set from my grandparents. A school friend (the proud owner of an AR88D) and I began to explore the shortwave broadcast bands and, indeed, I had a period of very active broadcast band DXing, both medium and long wave, during which time I used to send in reports to the ISWL's monthly magazine. The two of us went on to start a school radio club. However, while my friend stuck to BC listening, I discovered local amateurs on the "trawler band" of my receiver, and decided I wanted to join in the fun (those were the days of AM, of course).

My first effort at building a receiver was a Codar Mini Clipper, one valve regenerative set (remember them?), then I became more ambitious and built a Lafayette KT-340 superhet kit which Dave, G3PBV, who I had then discovered to be my local ham (Dave now lives near Exeter in Western DX Group land) helped me to align. I obtained my licence in September 1968, and started with the Lafayette receiver and a Codar AT5 (10W of AM and CW on 160 and 80), while at school I had access to the cadet force's R1155, HRD, AR88D, plus T1154 transmitter. I soon graduated to an Eddystone EC-10 receiver and DX-100U transmitter (150W of AM and CW) and started to work around the world, although the concept of DXing was unknown to me and such DX that I did work was more by accident than design (for years I didn't realise my ZM1AAT/K QSO was anything other than an odd ZL callsign!). Of course, CR6, CR7 and such like were commonplace on CW at that time.

I didn't have much space for decent antennas at my parents' house, so built a Heathkit 2m FM rig (crystal controlled tx and tunable rx in those days) and started exploring VHF. My interest in VHF continued well into the 70s, during which time I was to chase SSB and CW DX on 4, 2 and 70cm, as well as going out /P for many VHF contests including one operation /LX using a Liner 2 plus 8-ele yagi. However, on arrival at university in 1970 I met up with Ron, G3YMH, then a keen topband DX chaser, plus other DX enthusiasts. We went on 160 expeditions to various Scottish counties (as G6UW/P) as well as to HB9, HB0 and 4U1ITU, and I also began to take a serious interest in HF contesting, winning a few 160m contests from the G6UW club station. Mind you, the first really fanatical HF DXer I met was a new arrival at the university in my last year there, a certain G3ZAY!

Going to work, getting married and buying my first house all helped to keep me off the air, although somewhere along the line I bought an FT-101 and started exploring HF SSB. It was in 1978, though, as the sunspots started to climb, that I built a 2-element 10-metre quad and realised that working DX from home wasn't too hard. It became even easier when I invested in an FL-2000B linear! The addition of an HQ-1 mini-quad (I was still short of space) helped me get up above 200 countries, but a move

to Cambridge was the excuse to look for a decent QTH where I could put up an HF beam. That QTH proved to be excellent on all bands, and for the first time I had room for some decent LF antennas. As a result my score grew rapidly on all bands, with 5BDXCC, 160m DXCC, etc. being achieved quite quickly. Martin, G3ZAY, and I were working in the same office at this time and when Geoff Watts decided he had edited DXNS for long enough it seemed natural that we should take over, which we did for two years or so, eventually handing over to Bren, G4DY0.

During this period I became more and more involved in the DX world, taking part in a DXpedition to GJ, attending the Visalia and Clipperton conventions, starting to write the HF column in Amateur Radio magazine, and joining the RSSB HF Committee. The rig, meanwhile, had been updated to an FT-101ZD plus TL922. I also started to chase islands, which later led to my going to Les Minquiers and the Farne Islands along with Martin.

I joined CDXC after moving to my present QTH near Reading at the end of 1984. As most of you know, I still use a J-Beam 3-element tribander, while a Butternut HF2V has been added for LF (though for serious LF DXing I take down the beam, extend the tower, and put up an inverted-L for 160, delta loop for 80, or whatever takes my fancy at the time). I have always tried to follow as many aspects of the hobby as possible and have recently become fascinated by the various data modes, particularly packet and RTTY. I have also started chasing DX on 6 metres (18 countries in 3 continents so far this year), and continue to be active on the WARC bands as and when I can find the time. I now have an Extra Class US call - NK1G - but am still waiting for the opportunity to put it on the air. The newest acquisitions on the equipment front are a TS940S and an FT726R for VHF/UHF.

If my next 20 years as a licensed amateur are as much fun as the first 20 years I will have no complaints!

DXNS Calendar (Txn G4DY0)

		late Dec	FT4ZE starts
Now	ZC4ZR by YASME	Jan 1-10	UZ9QWM/UA8T ?
till Dec 1	3WB	Jan 6	YL Activity Day
till Dec 2	G4LJF/V2A	Jan 7-8	ARRL RTTY Roundup
till Dec 13	3D2KK by SM7PKK	Jan 13-15	C9MKT ?
till Dec 31	Caribbean by F2JD	Jan 15	RSGB AFS Ctst
till Jan 89	VK0IC, Mawson Base	Jan 20-Feb 8	3W by RL8PYL, KM1R, et
till Mar 89	VP8BRR, S.Georgia	Jan 21-22	HA-DX Ctst
till Apr 89	JX1UG	Jan 21-22	N.Dakota QSO Pty
till Jun 89	VP8BRT, S.Orkney	Jan 27-29	CQWW 160 CW Ctst
early Dec	XU1SS starts on 10m	Jan 28-29	REF-CW Ctst
Dec 2-4	ARRL 160m Contest	Feb	YL-ISSB CW QSO Pty
Dec 2-6	CEO JF by PY1DFF	Feb	CO Cayo Rosales ?
Dec 3-4	TOPS 80m CW Contest	Feb 4-5	AS-38 Ayon Is.
Dec 6	YL Activity Day	Feb 4-5	YU-DX Ctst
Dec 7-14	Ob1.001, RA3YG/UD0D	Feb 4-5	RSGB 7MHz SSB Ctst
Dec 9-11	C9MKT	Feb 6	Vermont QSO Pty.
Dec 10-11	ARRL 10m Contest	Feb 6	YL Activity Day
Dec 11-Jan 8	8P6EM by G3VBL	Feb 11-12	Dutch PACC Ctst
Dec 15-20	XF4 by XEs	Feb 11-13	YLRL YL/OM SSB Ctst
Dec 18	CARF (VE) Winter Ctst	Feb 17-19	C9MKT ?
Dec 19-31	TA1E by JF1IST	Feb 18-19	ARRL DX CW Ctst
Dec 20-22	1AOKM ??	Feb 24-26	CQWW 160 SSB Ctst
Dec 22-23	A4 Field Day	Feb 25-26	RSGB 7MHz CW Ctst
		Feb 25-27	YLRL YL/OM CW Ctst

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

Time flies..When you don't know what you are doing!

I would like to start by echoing my sorrow at the loss of a much respected and worthy member of CDXC. As you have read by now, Jack Korndoffer G2DMR passed away in September.

Jack was not only a good friend, but a devoted Dx'er whom I had the pleasure of working from many spots around the world, for he was never far from the pile up. He unselfishly was also one of the prime disseminators of DX information on .525 in London area, and his precise factual broadcasts will be missed by all who not only knew him personally, but those who knew him only as a 'voice' on 2 metres.

Jack was the perfect gentleman both on the radio and off, and we shall miss him dearly. I regret that I did not know more about his many talents till after his death, for I believe Jack had a distinguished and interesting flying career too.

Jack's calm and reasoned approach to Club matters will be missed too on the CDXC Committee, where he held the post of Club Treasurer.

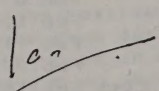
On a happier note, our Chairman G3GIQ has expressed a wish that we revive the Club Net Sundays at 11 am local 3773 +/- . Henry will be making a roster of MC's, and any volunteers would be most welcome.

I apologise that this will have to be a short contribution, but I am due to depart for Antigua early tomorrow morning, having had very little time to prepare for the trip. No doubt by the time that you read this you will be aware that I have been there, and I will send Don a full article about the trip on my return.

All the logging will be done on a laptop computer, so fingers crossed that there are no disaster!

I would like to finish by welcoming the many new members who have joined us. Thank you for your support, and I hope you enjoy being one of the gang!

73 for now


Ian G4LJF Club Secretary